

Introduction

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) proposes to fully rehabilitate State Bridge Number 698 (a.k.a. Van Buren Street Bridge) which carries Van Buren Street over the Brandywine Creek. Originally constructed as part of an aqueduct, the bridge also carries an active water line (soon to be abandoned by others) which is encased within the bridge. The water line functions as an active source of potable water supply for the residences and services in the City of Wilmington. Because of the aging condition of the encased pipe and its function, the structural condition of the bridge itself, and the need to perpetually keep the line active, the City of Wilmington's Public Works Department is in the process of relocating a new, and permanent line off the bridge. This will then accommodate DelDOT's need to repair and rehabilitate the bridge.

The project is located in downtown Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware. The project area and bridge location are also located in the center of the Brandywine Park Historic District.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6 (a)(1), the purpose of this report is to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with the necessary and adequate documentation/information supporting a finding of Adverse Effect and a Memorandum of Agreement for this proposed bridge rehabilitation. In an effort to ensure the adequacy of this documentation/information, this report is written in accordance with the provisional requirements of 36 CFR Part 800.8 (b) and (c).

Within the Delaware Historic Bridge Survey and Evaluation, it was concluded that the Van Buren Street Bridge is considered as an eligible structure for inclusion in the National register of Historic Places. By consulting with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO), the bridge and project area lie within the Brandywine Park Historic District, Which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. By applying the criteria of effect/adverse effect (Part 800.9(a) and (b)), the Federal Highway Administration, the lead federal agency, has determined that the proposed project would have an adverse effect on the historic bridge and historic district area as per Part 800.9(b). The DE SHPO has concurred with this effect determination. Documentation of such evidence can be seen in Part Seven of this document.

Part One describes the Project area, the bridge, the bridge's structural condition, and the proposed Delaware Department of Transportation /FHWA action.

Part Two identifies and describes the historic resources which are listed or considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Part Three discusses how the proposed project will adversely effect the both historic resources (i.e. the Van Buren Street Bridge and Brandywine Park Historic District).

Part Four discusses the alternative options or ways which were considered to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Part Five deals with environmental treatment and mitigation measures that will be employed for the Project.

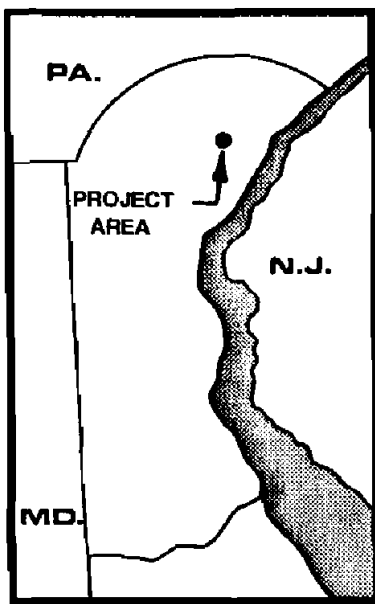
In Part Six, a Memorandum of Agreement signed by all contributing agencies/parties is incorporated so that commitments and/or mitigation measures are acceptable prior to the contract being awarded.

Finally, Part Seven includes coordination and written views of the DE SHPO and other interested persons (agencies or interest groups) concerning the project's finding of adverse effect.

Appendix I consists of the project's design plans for this bridge repair and rehabilitation.

The acceptance of this document and Memorandum of Agreement by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, will conclude the responsibilities required in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the following the Council's regulations as per 36 CFR Part 800.

KEY MAP



**NEW CASTLE COUNTY,
DELAWARE**

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

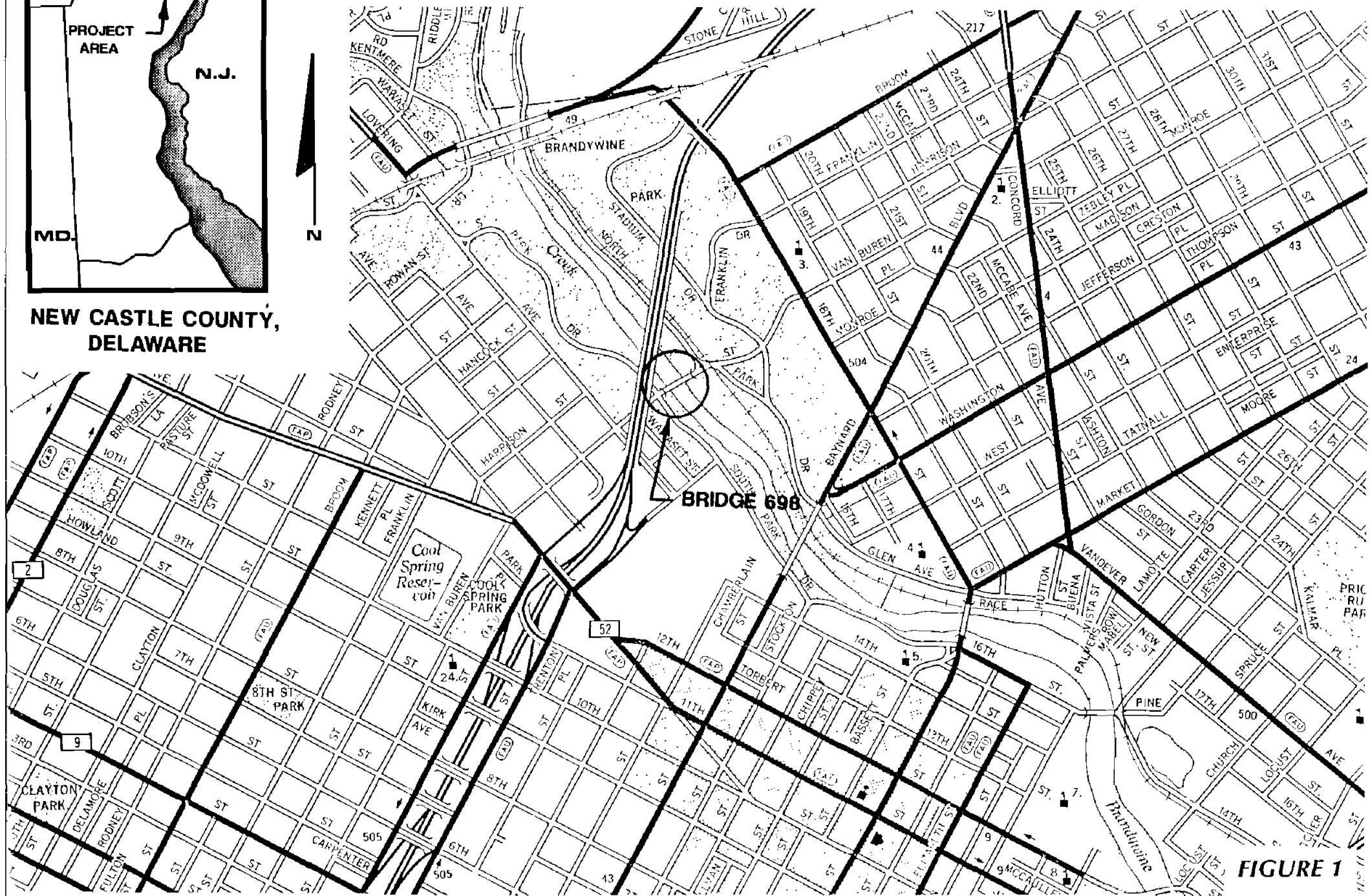
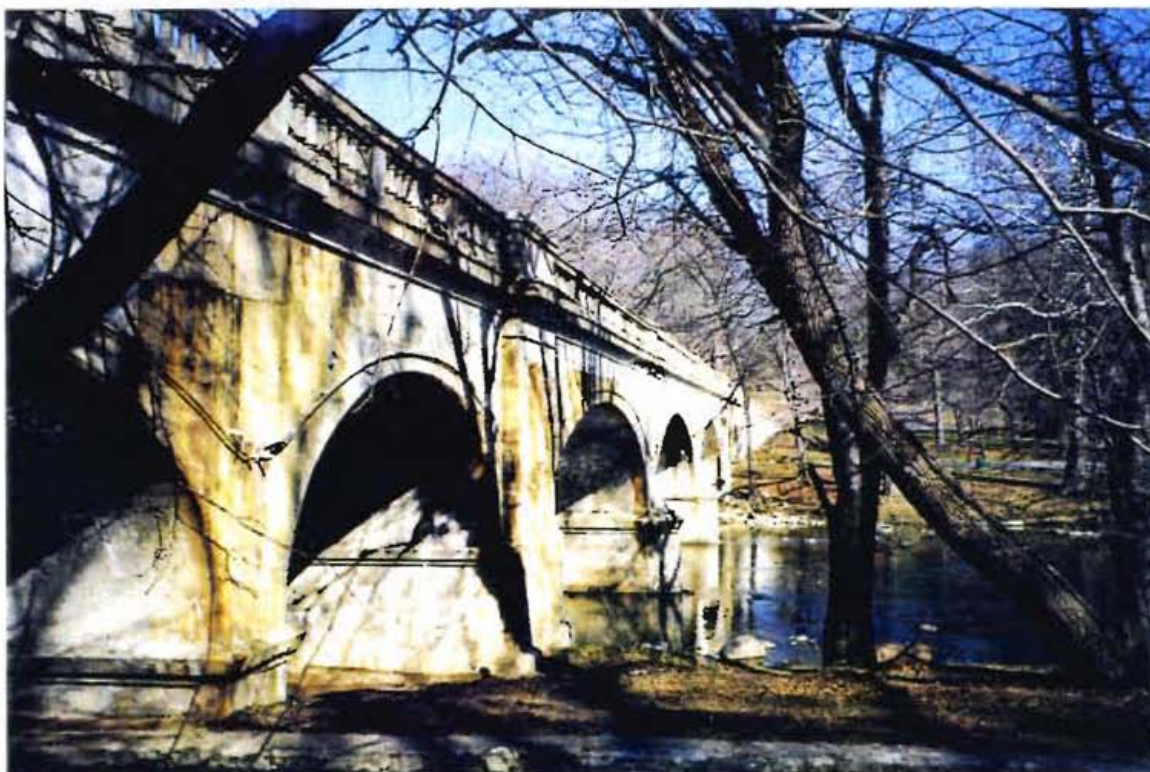


FIGURE 1



Van Buren Street Bridge within the Brandywine Park looking north



Van Buren Street Bridge deck looking north



Van Buren Street Bridge within Brandywine Park looking southeast



Van Buren Street Bridge looking north